MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Caltication of the Suti and Tields Thereof-Harticulture, Viticulture and Florientius &.

An Agricultural Department for Inwa-A bill introduced by Senator Harriman to establish a department of agriculture is now pending in the lowa legislature and there are strong probabilities that it will be passed as it has the backing of a good many members of the assembly and the people and press are generally favorable to it. It is proposed to consolidate under the one organization all the state boards and bureaus related to agriculture. This would give it the supervision of the district and county fair societies, the weather and crop service, the farmers' institutes, and the state veterinary and dairy and food commission departments. It would be managed by a board of which the governor, the president of the lowa State Agricultural College, the state dairy commissioner and the state veteringrian would be members ex-officio. The regular membership would be made up of directors, one from each congressional district, from which doubtless the officers would be chosen. As there are only eleven congressional districts in Iowa, this would not make a very cumbersome organization and in that respect would be an improvement on the Illinois method of carrying on the same work through four separate organizations. To the first two of these, the live stock commission and the dairy and food commission no particular objection can be made since their membership consists of only necessary working members appointed by the governor. The third organization, the state board of agriculture, is made up of one representative from each congressional district in the state, and the fourth, the Illinois Farmers' Institutes, created by an act of the 39th assembly, and serving in some respects us a model for the lows bill, is under the supervision of an ex-officio board of directors consisting of the state superintendent of public instruction, the president of the State Dairymen's Association, the dean of the State College of Agriculture, the president of the state board of agriculture, and the president of the State Horticultural Society. The regular membership like that of the state board of agriculture is made up of a representative from each congressional district and from this membership the officers and standing committees are chosen. As each of these four organizations is a state institution, the expenses of members are paid by the state for attendance at all conventions and committee meetings and the expense of the report which each issues and circulates is also paid by the state. This makes a considerable demand upon the public treasury without in many cases any compensating advantages to the taxpayers since the work of the state board of agriculture and of the Farmers' Institutes is necessarily directed and carried on by its officers chosen with special regard to their fitness for | of the roots, there being a tendency to the work, their experience and knowl-

Corn Culture.

edge of the needs of agriculturists.

Judge S. H. Miller of Mercer, Pa., is one of the enthusiastic farmers of the county. Eleven years ago he bought a poor farm one mile from the town of Mercer, and has made it very productive. Three years ago I saw on this farm as heavy a turf of timothy as seemed possible to any land. His agricultural faith is pinned to stable manure, underdrainage, heavy sods to make humus, and then tillage. At Leesburg institute he told us that his cornfield was harrowed nine times last spring before planting, and he said he would have harrowed it nine times more if there had been time for the work. By this he certainly proves his falth in tiliage. The crop was one of the heat ever raised in the county. according to the testimony of many at the institute who saw the field. Judge Miller cultivates level, and keeps the cultivator going whenever the weather and other crops permit. Continuous culture long as possible would suit hlm. Tillinge conserves moisture and from fertility. Whether so much tillage would pay in each most years is a question. I doubt it.-National Stock-DIAM.

The Gram for the Land.

There is great wealth in the grass

crop, whether it be in the pasture or the mandow. More attention should be paid by nearly every farmer to the seinction of granges adapted to his soil; his conditions and his needs. There is a very large number of good grasses. but very few are popularly grown. The adinary man seems to think that one kind of tame grass in his pasture is about as good as another, and if one of the standard grasses does fairly well he looks for no other. But granges a rary greatly in the growth they make on different soils. With farms varying all the way from light sand to impergious clay it is reasonable to auppose that there are many places where our commonest grasses do not do so well as other grasses that might be brought

м.

Of course we recognise the fact that for hay to be sold in the market it will not pay to try any but the best-known granses, for the reason that the buyer of hay in the city is not inclined to experiment with new kinds of hay, at least not unless he can get the new kind at a very much lower price. But the farmer himself is not thus circumseribed. He can grow and feed without projudice my new grass.

The work seing done by the government in bringing in new grasses from

FARM AND GARDEN, all parts of the world is destined to me of great value to the farmer, and the latter should not be backward in avail-ing himself of the opportunities presented. A number of grass plots should exist on his farm, and in these should be grown the grasses best reported of for his locality. Our practices of grass growing are bound to undergo a radical change; and the future will no more see us sticking to the two or three kinds of grames now being grown than the present sees us growing the potatoes and cabbages that

were favorites with our grandfathers. Different grasses use different constituents in the soil, and on exhausted grass land it may prove possible to substitute a new variety for an old variety with advantage. Some of the new grasses have been brought from lands subject to great extremes of heat and cold and of drouth, and will prove especially serviceable on lands that are so mechanically constructed that they yield readily to drouth conditions. Progress in the science of grass growing will come only as a result of many and varied experiments with all the known valuable grasses,

Ratulty or Vegetable Oyster. Press Bulletin No. 61 of the Kansas Experiment Station says: Vegetable oyster, or salsify, is a most valuable addition to the list of cultivated vegetables, but at present is little known and scarcely appreciated. It is not a native of America, so far as is known, but is indigenous to the southeastern counties of England, where it grows in the meadows. Nothing from the ordi-nary sources of information can be found as to its introduction into this country, but it is not well enough known to indicate that it has been long in cultivation. Henderson, in his Gardening for Profit, says that although the consumption is limited, the prices are high and remunerative, and that the amount grown is increasing. Whether or not it should be grown extensively is a question that the demand for the vegetable will settle, but there is no question whatever that it is worthy of cultivation for family use in every vegetable garden.

Botanically it bears the name Tragopogon porrifolius, Linn., belonging to the Compositue, and is a biennial plant. The varieties Long White and Sandwich Island have been tested by the horticultural department of the Kansas Experiment Station. There was little difference in the total yield, Sandwich Island being ahead, but the roots of Sandwich Island had fewer laterals and were smoother. Where a good stand the yield was very nearly a pound to the foot of row.

Salsify is easily grown, may be cultivated without trouble, and is easily stored for winter use. The seeds are sometimes planted with a drill, but on account of being so sharply curved at the ends it is rather difficult to obtain an even distribution in this way, unless they are very thoroughly cleaned. They may be planted thickly, to be thinned later on, or the seeds may be dropped from four to six inches apart in the first place. The soil should be rich, but with well-rotted manure worked deep and thoroughly. Upon the perfect condition of the soil depends the straightness and smoothness branch where fresh manure is applied. The plants should be cultivated as parsnips are. They are very hardy, are not affected by frost and may be left in the ground all winter without harm. But to have the roots ready for use they should be dug in the fall and stored away in soil or sand where the temperature is low. If exposed to the air the roots become shriveled and tasteless and are without value.

Coloring Butter.

The color question is a matter of vital interest to the dairymen of the United States. Upon that line nearly all the repressive legislation that has been had against the fraud oleomargarine, is based. For that reason, in order that in the future deception and swindling may be prevented, it becomes a matter of necessity that all butter shall come upon the table in a yellow color, says Hoard's Dairyman.

So far as deaths having over ensued from the eating of butter that has been colored, that is the merest humbug. Butter is colored simply as a matter of taste, because in summer, when feed is green, all butter is yellow. It does not make poor butter good butter. The coloring has nothing whatever to do with the question of quality. No man need be persuaded to buy poor butter for good because it is yellow. Quality in butter is not judged by the eye, but by the taste and smell, so color has nothing to do with quality, but has much to do with another department of value, that of appearance to suit the

eye of the customer. The aim of the dairymen and all consumers who do not wish to be swindled into buying oleomargarins when they call for butter, is to force eleomargarine, by the strong arm of the law, to appear in the market and elsewhere in its own distinctive color, which is white, or nearly so. Then, if the poor want it as a cheap substitute for butter, they can buy it for what it is worth. Public sentiment and understanding is fast coming to see the integrity, fairness and wisdom of such a purpose,

The boarding house or restaurant keeper who puts white butter on his table is lacking in good business sense. No deaths, nor even sickness, have ever occurred, to our knowledge, from eating butter colored by any form of

The sooner all butter comes on the table in yellow attire and all substitotes are forced to appear uncolored, the quicker will justice be done to the communer and the dairymen.

A sky full of stars predicts rain.

Profit in the theburd, (Condensed from Farmers Brview Stenographic Report of Illinois Parmers Institute Boundap.)

H. A. Aldrich said in part: Whenever an orchard overbears it is injured for a long time. After an orchard comes into bearing, no plow should be put into it. It is better to cultivate it by means of a cut away harrow, and follow that by a smoothing barrow. Young trees not in bearing should be plowed deep, 6 or inches. That will compet the roots to strike deeper. Trees so treated go, so well rooted that they can't be blown over. We should not grow hay in an orchard, as the grass will always take the cream of the land and the trees will get nothing but the skim milk. Trees in sod suffer from drouth, and the sod is a harbor for all kinds of insects, borers especially. When an orehard comes into bearing, give it the whole ground. If your orchard is not profitable do not lay all the blame on it. The question is asked, "Does spraying pay". There is no longer any doubt on that point. It costs only to 15 cents a tree to spray.

Q .- At what time should we spray? Mr. Aldrich,-Three times; just before the blossoms open; just after the petals have fallen; and two weeks

Q .- Do you spray your trees before they come into bearing?
Mr. Aldrich.—The moner you begin

to spray the better. Begin the same year you set them, and keep it up, so that when they commence to bear you won't have any scab to fight.

Q .- When the limbs of the trees of an orehard hang too low to permit of cultivation to what extent should we prune, to make it possible to cultivate?

Mr. Aldrich.-I cut my trees back so I can get near the trees or under them, but I never cut off large limbs. Wherever you cut off a limb that is more than an inch and a half in diameter be sure to paint the cut to prevent bacteria from getting in. Prune in summer for fruit and in winter for

Q .- What do you think about cuiting off of great limbs sometimes ala inches in diameter?

Mr. Aldrich.-I would not do that; call that butchery. Q .- Is not the rubbing of the hogs

against the trees very injurious? Mr. Aldrich.-Well, that question is brought up again and again, by men that had hogs in their orchard and lost some of their trees, but I do not believe that the hogs rubbing against the trees is what did the damage. I went into some of those orchards, and in every case I found the ground packed hard, and that is, I believe, what killed the trees.

Q.—Is it a good idea to make a chicken yard out of the orchard? Mr. Aldrich,-Yes, sir; if you culti-

Missouri Fruit Prospects.

Under date of Feb. 15 the secretary of the Missouri State Horticultural Soclety sends us the following: From reports from ninety three counties of the state, we cull the following:

Apple orchards, where well cared for, are in very fair condition and promise a good crop. Old and neglected orchards are not in good condition and prospects are not good. Injury of trees by freeze of February, 1899, still shows in many places to be serious.

Peach orehards, where properly cut back last spring, have most of them made a fine growth and will hold a fair crop of peaches. Trees not cut back and those cut back too severely, and old trees have many of them died. The very rapid growth on the cutback trees has prevented the formation of very many fruit buis, and hence we cannot expect a full crop. Some of the buds have already been killed, but there are left, on most trees, all the buds that the trees should have.

Pear, plum and cherry trees, atthough badly injured in some localities, have formed a good lot of fruit buds and the prospect is good for all of these fruits.

Strawberries have not made a good stand and the prospect is that the crop will be very much shorter than for years.

Raspberries and blackberries have generally recovered from the freeze of '99 and we may expect nearly a full

Grapes are in good condition and promise well.

Taking it all in all we can now safely may that there will be nearly n full crop of applea, a half crop of peaches, a two-thirds crop of pears, plums and cherries, a half crop of strawberries and raspberries, and a full crop of blackberries and grapes But we still have the most dangerous part of the season to pass .- L. A. Goodman, Secretary.

Some people wonder why more squabs are not raised for market, and any that when pigeons are so very prolific there should be no reason for the squabs setting at from 25 cents to 50 cents each even in winter. The reason why more squabs are not produced is doubtless due to the fact that the men that attempt to raise pigeous do not confine them in covered yards, that is, yards with wire sides and tops. The result is that all kinds of enemies proy on the pigeons and the constant loss from this is large and discouraging. If doves are to be kept for the squabs they produce it is evident that the work to be successful must be scientifically carried on.

The Rite of a Pig.—It is a rather remarkable fact that the bite of the pig is more dangerous than that of any of our farm animals. Why this is so is not easily accounted for; but the fact remains that injuries lufficted by pigu usually take a much longer time to heat than those inflicted by, say, hurses or dops. However, wounds inflicted by swine are of rather rare occurrences,

Shipping toal to Eurose

The scarcity of coat in Europe, which is said to be due indirectly to the war in South Africa, has been a great thing for the mines of Maryland and West Virginia. In addition to unprecedented shipments to the general trade from Baltimore, Lambert's Point and Newport News, a French company has con-tracted for 75,000 tons of Cumberland coat, and the Russian government is now making terms for 2,000,000 tons.

Are the latest in dentistry. By a pe-culiar process they are rendered better than any other material. They may be ane, but most people would prefer their wan, and this may best be accomplished by keeping the stomach healthy with Hostetter's Stomach Litters, as the con-dition of it affects the teeth. The Bitters will cure constipation, dyspepsis and billousness.

Difficulties of a Husband. She will not "go out," and alleges that The frock which she has is too old for her hat. A gown then she gets; but gives me a By declaring her hat is too old for her

"Ma, I do wish I had a little sister."
"So you would have some one to play with, Freddy?" "Nom: some ev'y time you wached my face I c'd wash hern."

THE ORIP CURE THAT DOES CURE.

Larative Brome Culoine Tablets removes the cause that produces La Grippe. E. W. Brove's signature is on each box. Ec.

"When you first tell in love, did you feel wise or foolish?" "Well, before I snew whether she would have me or not I felt wise, and after I proposed and answ she wouldn't have me I felt fool-sh."

SIO TO SIS A DAY to agents—consching new and wooderfully useful Address Hills Brothers, McFall, Mo. "Welt, 'ignorance is bliss,' you know."
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A Hook of Choice Recipes Sent free by Watter Baker & Co. Ltd., Borchester, Mass. Moulton this paper.

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Nagices of the but brings buildness. Use PARKER's Harn Bachaw and save your har, REMDERCUGER, the best cure for come. Licia. "How did Kruger's peace overture strike you?" 'It reads as if he had mere-by rewritten his war unimatum to Eng-land hind-side before."

I know that my life was saved by Piso's Cure for Consumption.—John A. Miller, Au Sable, Michigan, April 21, 1895.

"These slient people often do harm in the world." "What do you mean?" "Why, they let other people talk too much."

Backaches Nomen

are wearying beyond desoription and they indicate real trouble somewhere.

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Is what Mrs. Archie Young of 1817 Oaks Ave. West Superior, Wis. writes us on Jan. 26th, 1900. "I am no thankful to be able to say that your S W ANGEN'S." Superior will be best medicine I have ever used in my life. I sent for some last Newsenber and communiced using it right many and it beloned use from the first dose. Oh, i cannot explain to you have I was suffering from non-adjust I seemed that death was never at hand. I thought no one small be worse. I was so very weak that I havely expected to live to see my hashand come back from his daily labor. But now I am free from pain, my chocks are red, and I sheep well the whest might through. Many of my friends are no surprised to see my hashand come in the whole night through. Many of my friends are no surprised to see my host they will send for some of your 'O BECOPAL's."

RHEUMATISM "I have been afflicted with rhoundation for 2 years. I was in test with it when I now your adverthement in a paper, recommending NWANNEYS SHOPES very highly. I thought I would be it in it has completely ented me, but I him it as well that I want two more besties for fear I will get into the same fix I was before I sent for SHOPE, 19 writes Mr. Alexander Putvell of Vanudate, Ark., 8th. 6th, 1935. DROPS

30 DAYS to each to will court to give "5 DEOTS" at least a trial, wy annua boths will see an about a series will be the "7 annua boths will see an about a series boths. To said by mail far I like. The annual boths will see an about a series to the series to the series and the series as the series and the series and the series and the series are series. SWANGO MEETING OF HE CO., 160 to 164 Eaks St., CESCAGO, IEL.





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